the past was in items like cotton/cotton manufactures, textile fabrics, fruits/vegetables, rice etc.

Free Trade Zone at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh

2622. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan was drawn up for the setting up of a free trade zone in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) details of the same and the progress made in its implementation;

(c) whether there are any factors leading to delay in its implementation; and

(d) by when the free trade zone is expected to start functioning at Vishakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Zone Administration has taken possession of 360.51 acres of land and development works have been initiated.

(c) and (d) The Zone is expected to be functional in 1993, once the basic infrastructural facilities are completed.

Decanalisation of Export of Processed Mica

2623. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decanalised not only exports of processed mica but of mica scrap and mica waste also, resulting in the increase of exports of processed mica and decline in the exports of mica scrap and mica waste;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such differential treatment; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to decanalise export of mica-waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) On an assurance from mica trade to substantially incrrease exports of processed mica in case it was decanalised, it was decided by the Government to decanalise exports of processed mica including mica films, mica blocks and splittings with effect from 22.10.1990. Exports of mica scrap/factory cuttings/mica waste was continued to be canalised through Mica Trading Corporation (MITCO)/MMTC to watch the relative performance of private trade and MITCO.

(c) No, sir.

Retirement of the Chairman of Hindustan Diamonds Corporation Limited

2624. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, Hindustan Diamonds Corporation Limited is due for retirement;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) whether Government are considering grant of extension in service to the Chairman, Hindustan Diamonds Corporation Limited, despite the Government's declared policy, not to grant such extensions beyond superannuation; if so, on what grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A proposal to grant extension in service to the former Chairman of the Hindustan Dimonds Corporation Ltd. was under consideration, so as to place an understudy and to groom him to take over the Chairmanship of the Corporation at an appropriate time. However, the Chairman was due for retirement on 30th November, 1991 and he demitted office on the same day.